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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/19/2018  
TAGS: PARM PREL MASS ETTC BU  
SUBJECT: U.S. RESPONSE TO BULGARIA REGARDING THE TRANSFER  
OF MANPADS COMPONENTS TO EGYPT

REF: SOFIA 00517

Classified By: Classified by EUR/PRA Acting  
Director Kathleen Morenski for reasons 1.4 (B)  
AND (D).

¶11. (U) This is an action request. Please see action request  
at paragraph 4.

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SUMMARY  
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¶12. (S) The Government of Bulgaria (GOB) has agreed to consult  
with the U.S. prior to selling man-portable air defense  
systems (MANPADS) and their components (with the exception of  
such transactions to NATO or EU member states). Bulgaria  
recently requested U.S. views on a follow-up transfer of  
MANPADS components to Egypt (Reftel). The GOB also informed  
the U.S. that Bulgarian companies possessing stores of spare  
MANPADS parts were interested in selling them to the U.S. or  
destroying the items.

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USG Views on MANPADS-related Transfer to Egypt  
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¶13. (S) Washington has reviewed the notification from Bulgaria  
of the transfer of 520 sets of MANPADS parts to the  
Government of Egypt. According to the end-user certificate  
issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Defense, the items  
purchased "are intended exclusively for use in the Armed  
Forces of the Arab Republic of Egypt as spare parts of the  
present equipment on the territory of the Arab Republic of  
Egypt and will not be re-exported, sold, rented or  
transferred to any other party without the written consent of  
the exporter and the State Service of Export Control of  
Bulgaria." In light of the terms of the end-use certificate  
presented by Egypt, and since there is little evidence to  
indicate Egypt is planning to sell MANPADS or countries are  
approaching Egypt to purchase MANPADS, Washington does not  
object to Bulgaria providing the components listed above to  
Egypt.

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OBJECTIVES  
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¶14. (S/REL BULGARIA) Post is requested to approach appropriate  
GOB officials and provide the U.S. Government response to the  
transfer of MANPADS components to Egypt. Response should  
indicate that we do not object to the proposed transaction.  
Post should also indicate our desire to negotiate the  
acquisition and/or destruction of remaining MANPADS  
components in Bulgaria. Post is requested to pursue the  
following objectives:

-- Inform GOB officials that the USG does not object the  
transfer of the 520 sets of MANPADS parts to the Government

of Egypt.

-- Indicate this transaction appears consistent with the needs of the Ministry of Defense of Egypt.

-- Note that the end-user certificate issued by the Government of Egypt was an important factor in assuring the legitimacy of this transfer.

-- Indicate that the United States is prepared to discuss the acquisition and/or destruction of the remaining stores of spare MANPADS parts in the possession of Bulgarian companies.

**¶5.** (U) Post's assistance is greatly appreciated. Department points of contact are Meg Mitchell, (202) 647-2433, [mitchellmt2@state.sgov.gov](mailto:mitchellmt2@state.sgov.gov) and Lou Ganem, (202) 647-2329, [ganemlc@state.sgov.gov](mailto:ganemlc@state.sgov.gov).

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